TARC NEWSLETTER

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

April, 1993

OFFICERS

President: Bud Hughes K4CWG 269-0779 Secretary: Jerry Russell KC4UFI 267-2157
VicePresident: Cliff Hoag KC4SYD 267-7030 Treasurer: Clyde Lee K4EOS 267-9375

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bud Hughes K4CWG

The TARC committee chairpersons are doing an outstanding job. I want to congratulate John Lowe (call sign not yet) who has made good progress toward our upcoming TARC hamfest to be held on Saturday, Oct. 9, 1993, 9 AM to 5 PM at Sand Point Pavilion. Many of our gang are volunteering to serve and support this event...More about this later.

>Vince, KK4SH is making good progress in preparation of Field Day which we are all looking forward to.

>Kay, KD4VSQ as always, is providing coffee, sodas and refreshments at our club meetings...thanks, Kay.

>The last fox hunt had 3 foxes plus the cook (Sherry - Bud's XYL) in the den. I am told it was the smell of hot dogs on the grill and not the RF eminating from the fox that provided the hone-in signal.

>At our club meeting a discussion will be had concerning the 146.97 machine and possible upgrading of same.

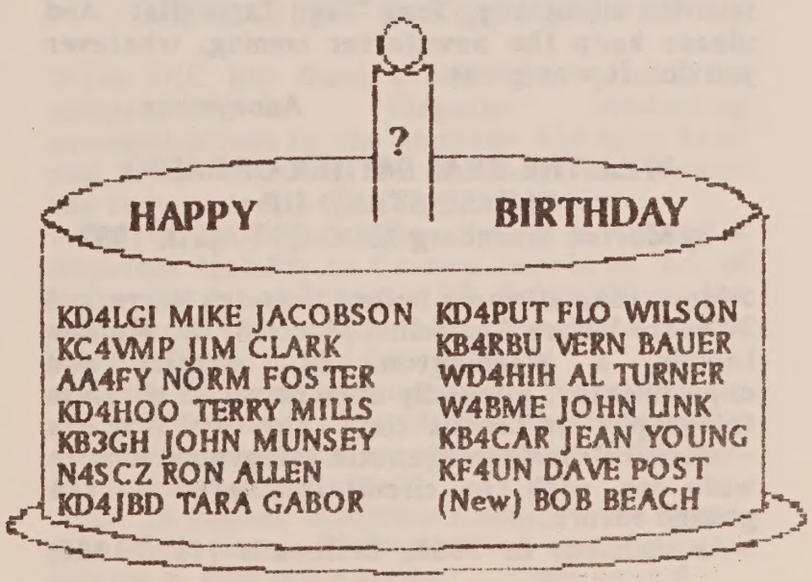
>Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting. Bring a friend. 73's

MEETING DATE APRIL 27, 1993, 7:00 PM
AT JAYCEE BUILDING ON SINGLETON
HIKING/CAMPING WITH YOUR HT
BY KD4HNW, KEN.

EDITOR'S DESK

By Clyde Lee K4EOS

A few weeks ago at Morrison's, Becky and I sat with Clara and Pike, and Pike told us how much he had enjoyed the jokes in the newsletter, and had in fact stolen one to use while speaking at the Knight's of Columbus meeting. Clara told us that Pike introduces the speaker at each meeting, and always tells a joke. She said that everyone looked forward to his jokes.. I asked him if he would do the joke column for us each month, and he agreed to do so. His first column is on page 7. I know you will also look forward to Pike's jokes.



ED.NOTE: I think I speak for all who volunteer their time and talents to "the making of TARC". There are times when you wonder why you put so much of yourself into the club. Then along come letters like the two reprinted below, or someone takes the time to call and say "thanks", and then you know why you do it.

Bud,
>Please accept my donation to the Titusville Amateur Radio Club.
>Also I would like to thank all of the wonderful people in the club, and club members and class members that I met the two months I attended class.

Anonymous

Dear TARC friends & fellow amateurs:

>I had to write this to express my delight with the March Newsletter. It is superb. I read it through twice, laughing even harder the second time at the jokes. I even enjoyed Jerry's minutes, which had a distinct flavor to them that only he can give. It reminded me how much I enjoy being with you and how long it has been since I "found the time" to do that. Like most folks, I have let the new work take over my life and now have to take back who I am. Your newsletter sure helped me to see how much I am missing!
>Please say a special thanks to everyone who keeps TARC and amateur radio going in Titusville for people like me. I have not done my share in a while but I promise to become more active over the next few weeks. A good way to begin would be to make it to the next meeting, and I will try to do that.
>Enclosed is a small donation for the repeater fund. Please enter it in the name of my favorite silent key, Tony "Tag" Tartaglia. And please keep the newsletter coming, whatever you do. It was great.

Anonymous

WILL THE REAL FATHER OF RADIO PLEASE STAND UP

By Morton Eisenberg K3DG-QST-April, 1993

>More than 20 years before Heinrich Hertz and 30 years before Guglielmo Marconi, Dr. Mahlon Loomis, a Washington, DC, dentist and experimenter, allegedly demonstrated wireless telegraphy. In Loomis' time - the Civil War era - one-wire electromagenetic telegraphy was in wide use, with the circuit completed via the ground return.
>As claimed, in 1868, Dr.Loomis (1826-1886) sent radio signals between two mountain peaks 14 miles apart. The demonstration, held in the Blue Ridge Mountains west of the Capitol, was witnessed by an audience of public officials and other invited guests.
>The doctor/experimenter was awarded Letters of Patent No. 129,971, dated July 30, 1872, for "Improvements in Telegraphing." In a descriptive document, he claimed his invention "utilized natural electricity and....establishing an electrical current or circuit for telegraphic and other purposes without the aid of wires, artificial batteries or cables, and yet communicate from one continent of the globe to another." The patent describes no special equipment, but mentions "....upon these mountaintops I erect suitable towers and apparatus to attract the electricity...."
>Starting in 1925, Loomis' second cousin, Mary Texanna Loomis, published several editions of her book RADIO THEORY AND OPERATING, in which she reproduced Dr. Loomis' 1865 sketch of his two early metallic gauze-covered kite antennas. A small copper wire was used as the tether and terminated at a ground connection. In receive mode, each station utilized a galvanometer between the antenna and ground, whose deflection would allow the received telegraph code to be read. To transmit, a telegraph key simply connected the antenna to the ground, using "natural electricity" if atmospheric static conditions were right.
>On January 13, 1869, Sen. Sumner presented Loomis' Petition to Congress for $50,000 to complete his demonstration, and Sen. Pomeroy affirmed the Petition as an observer of the experiment. The Act of Incorporation of the Loomis Aerial Telegraph Company was signed by President Grant on January 21, 1873.
>The $50,000 was never approved, however, and private-sector financing failed largely because of the financial panics of September 24, 1869, and September 19, 1873, and the Great Chicago Fire of October 8-9, 1871. Loomis was completely discouraged and in poverty through neglect of his dental profession. Alone, after his wife left him, he moved in with his brother in West Virginia. Dr. Loomis died in 1886.
>Documentation and commentaries on Loomis' life and work are abundant, but only partially acknowledged here. Much of the material is out of print.
>Robert H. Marriott, pioneer radio engineer and first president of the Institute of Radio Engineers, confirmed Loomis' results in an article in RADIO BROADCAST for December 1925. He described how sparks will jump across a spark-gap .....see page 3

connected between antenna and ground.
>The Smithsonian Institute supplied memorabilia for a Loomis exhibit at the Library of Congress in 1972, the centenary of Loomis' patent.
>MAHLON LOOMIS, INVENTOR OF RADIO by Thomas Appleby (Commander USNR, Ret) appeared in 1967 and is available from Johan Svanholm, N3RF.
>RADIO THEORY AND OPERATING by Mary Texanna Loomis (1925 & 1926) is out of print, so my thanks to Arthur Kay, W5APX for photocopies of this classic book and for his interest in this subject.
>So who's the real Father of Radio? We'll probably never know for sure, but if Dr. Mahlon Loomis were alive today, he'd probably have something to say about the origin of our mysterious radio hobby.

FOX HUNTING TALES
By K0OV Joe Moell - QST April,1993

To give you an idea of how much fun hidden transmitter hunting can be, I asked a few of my T-hunting colleagues to share some of their thoughts and stories. As you'll soon see, almost anything can, and does, happen when you're foxhunting:
JOHN MOORE, NJ7E: My most memorable hunt was the time my teammate got a gun stuck in his belly. The transmitter was hidden in a city park, in a green plastic trash bag under a bush. For some reason, there was a bunch of plain-clothes narcotics cops lurking around the park when we came charging in to look for the transmitter. We jumped out of the truck and went running into the bushes, which was suspicious, I guess. My partner DFed the transmitter, and just as he got close, this cop, thinking he's found the stash of drugs, pulls a gun on him My friend says, "I gotta get to the transmitter," and the cop's saying, "Don't touch that thing!" It was funny, because once they realized what was going on, they gave some sort of hand signal and three or four people who had been lounging around the park suddenly got up and left.
J.SCOTT BOVITZ, N6MI: Transmitter hunting is the only Amateur Radio competition where the "big guns" and the "Little pistols" mix it up each time, and the "little pistol" is just as likely to come out on top.
STEVE HEINEMANN, N6XFC, hunter for 3 years: I like T-hunting because you go to places that you would not normally get to visit. I can enjoy the countryside that most people never see. My favorite time was the hunt a few of us put on at Cone Peak, at 9000 feet, in Monterey County. We had a TV up there, of course, and it was a comfortable place to be for four days. The first hunter didn't show up for a day and a half.
CLARK HARRIS, WB6ADC, age 74, hunter for 19 years: I've been on hundreds of hunts. I like the ingenuity of hiders when they do things like hide underground, or run the antenna up a dried weed, or on a ferris wheel, or in a phony fire plug. On one hunt, the hider loaded up a sprinkler in somebody's front yard. You had to get wet to find the antenna!
KEN MIRABELLA, KM6YH, hunter for 5 months: I do it so my son (KD6AAN) and I can do something together. It's a good weekend activity for us; we can spend time together and develop our knowledge. It's a mental challenge, I think. You have to put all your skills together - it's not just talking on the radio. This involves manual dexterity in building the equipment, knowledge of plotting and orienteering. It's a fun sport. My son is the driving force. If there's a T-hunt and we don't go out, I hear about it!
MARTY MITCHELL, N6ZAV, ham for 30 months, hunter for 9 months: First, there's no better way to understand 2-meter propagation than by being a T-hunter. You really learn it well. Second, I enjoy building all the projects that go along with T-hunting. I've built a Doppler and several other projects, and it's been a blast. And finally, the camaraderie to T-hunters is better than any other group I've been with. It's taken up all my free time.
>If you haven't tried transmitter hunting, there's no time like the present. At least you now know what you've been missing! K0OV

HAMS HELP SQUELCH 420-MHz INTERLOPERS - from QST April, 1993

>The FCC has fined a television production company for illegally conducting communications in the amateur 420-MHz band and is investigating the company that rented the radios used in the illegal operations.
>The FCC's Dallas office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability to Cannon Television Inc. of Irving, Texas, on February 23, for $8000 for the violations, which reportedly took place in Ft. Worth, Texas, in mid-February.
>The FCC is also investigating a Texas firm for allegedly renting the hand-held transceivers modified to operate on the amateur 420-MHz band and used by Cannon.
>The 25 radios, Motorola model P-200s, were rented for use in filming a pilot episode for a television adventure series. .....see page 4

The P-200s are easily modified to opeate below 450 MHz through software programming. They are FCC type-accepted for operation from 403-512 MHz. The radios were delivered ready to operate in the amateur band.

>Jon Moon, KA5HND, discovered the movie company transmitting on two simplex frequencies at 443 and 445 MHz, on channels between those normally used by amateurs. Moon was "just scanning the band" when he ran across the transmissions, eventually figuring out their source.

>Moon contacted Chuck Adams, WB5WRR, who operates a repeater and remote base on the band. The two hams, with the help of other Dallas-Ft Worth amateurs, aided the FCC's Dallas office in locating the apparent source of the signals, in downtown Ft Worth. The FCC used direction-finding equipment to go to the scene.

>Local amateurs contacted the FCC on Wednesday, February 17, and the film crew was ordered to cease and desist, which they had done by the next day. They reportedly had been using the equipment for nearly two weeks before being detected.

>"This was a valuable learning experience for operators on our repeater," Adams said. Adams also said that there are UHF channels set aside for such operations as that of the movie company. In fact, the film company had contacted a local Dallas-area supplier of (legal) equipment, owned, coincidentally, by an Amateur Radio operator, but had decided the price was too high.

>At presstime, the Dallas and Houston FCC offices were conducting a joint investigation of the situation.

>James wells, the FCC Engineer in Charge at the Dallas office, said he wasn't surprised that local amateurs alerted him. "Most illegal activity on the amateur bands is detected and reported by hams," Wells said.

SENATE BILL INCLUDES PROTECTION FOR AMATEIR RADIO OPERATORS
from QST April, 1993

>A telecommunications bill to free up government spectrum for commercial use, introduced into the new US Congress, contains important protections for radio amateurs. The bill, S.335, is a revised version of S.218, which was not acted upon in the last Congress.

>During the last, 102nd Congress, the ARRL suggested six possible amendments to S.218 to mitigate the effect of releasing for private use government frequencies, some of which radio amateurs occupy on a shared, secondary, noninterference basis. Five of the six proposed amendments were incorporated into S.335.

>Sen Daniel Inouye (D-HI) introduced S.335, "The Emerging Telecommunications Technologies Act of 1993," on February 4, saying: "Mr. President, I rise today to join Sen Stevens (R-AK) in introducing the Emerging Telecommunications Technologies Act of 1993. This legislation is essential to the promotion of the US telecommunications infrastructure. It is my hope that this legislation can be passed quickly this year.

>"This bill will transfer 200 megahertz of spectrum from the control of the the federal government to the FCC to make available for new technologies. The bill requires the NTIA to consult with the Department of Defense, other government users and the private sector to determine which frequencies are most suitable to be transferred.

>"Sen Stevens and I have incorporated changes to accommodate concerns of the Amateur Radio industry. I'm happy to include these changes to protect the rights of Amateur Radio users to their spectrum."

>The changes made as a result of the ARRL initiative are as follows:

1) The bill makes a "finding" that "a reassignment of federal government frequencies can be accomplished without adverse impact on Amateur Radio licensees who currently share allocations with federal government stations."

2) In determining whether a frequency reallocation is feasible, the Secretary of Commerce shall "seek to avoid excessive disruption of existing use of Federal Government frequencies by Amateur Radio licensees."

3) One basis to be used in determining whether commercial use of a frequency is feasible is to be "the extent to which commercial users can share the frequency with Amateur Radio licensees."

4) The advisory committee convened to review and advise upon the Secretary's report shall include representatives of "Other users of the electromagnetic spectrum, including radio and television broadcast licensees, state and local public safety agencies, Amateur Radio licensees and the aviation industry."

5) The President may, on certain grounds, substitute alternative frequencies or bands for those chosen. Among the grounds on which he may act is "the reassignment will disrupt the existing use of a federal government band of frequencies by Amateur Radio licensees."

6) Competitive bidding authority given the FCC under this Act .....see page 5

"shall not extend to....amateur operation services...."

>"These changes go a long way toward addressing amateurs' concerns about this legislation, and clearly establish that our needs must be considered as the bill proceeds through the Congress," ARRL Executive VP David Sumner, K1ZZ, said.

>On February 4, the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance approved its version of the bill, H.R.707. While similar in most respects to S.335, the House bill doesn't contain protective language for amateurs. It will be some time before the bill comes before the full House.

>All ARRL effort to introduce protections for amateurs similar to that in the Senate bill have not yet borne fruit in the House, says ARRL Washington Coordinator Perry Williams, W1UED.

IS THE 2 METER RADIO SHACK HTX-202 MODIFIABLE? By Fred, K4DII

Actually, the radio was apparently designed to offer high performance for a low price, and to NOT be modifiable for out-of-band operation. So far, no one has come up with a legitimate mod. There is at least one proposed mod that is absolutely bogus, referencing parts that do not exist!

>Since it is such a popular radio, it would be great if someone could collect various modifications and/or alterations. However, there have been very few complaints about it, so there may be little room for improvement.

>The only weak area I'm aware of, is the battery pack. I understand that to get the maximum power from the radio, you must operate it from a cord connected to a separate 13.8 volt power source.

>It turns out that the HTX-202 is compatible with Icom battery packs for the old IC-2AT. Some of these packs are available at a higher voltage, and can be rapid-charged from the Icom BC-35 charger. I suggest you get information about this from either Icom dealers, or from battery manufacturers who offer less expensive packs.

>In the event that your original battery pack goes bad, I found one company that offers a refill for it: HTX-202 Insert $15.00. 7.2 Volt 600mAH: E.H.Yost & Co.
7344 Tetiva Rd.
Sauk City, Wisconsin 53583
(608)643-3194, FAX(608)643-4439
This company may also have the higher voltage battery packs.

"333" MOSQUITO NET CELEBRATES ITS SECOND ANNIVERSARY

The Mosquito Net celebrated its second anniversary by holding a special event all day Wednesday, March 24, 1993. The net was held open for 16 hours and made a total of 176 contacts. 90 hams became new members. The net has passed the 500 membership mark and keeps growing. 90 TARC members are also members of the net. All check-ins received their own copy of a special certificate.

>The net was opened at 0545 EST and would you believe that the first check-in was Pat KQ4CY who just happens to be Mosquito #333? After this grand opening we just knew it was going to be a great day! Early mosquitoes started to swarm on their way to work and while having their first cup of coffee to make sure they did not miss out on the occasion.

>The 10 meter band started to open around 9:30 am and KB6NPW, Tom, from New Mexico was netted as the first out of state mosquito.

>One of our most traveled mosquitoes, Jerry from Merritt Island, Stinger #41, checked into the net as C56/KC4YDP. He was operating portable from Banjoul, Gambia, in the West coast of Africa. It is always a pleasure to keep in touch with him during his travels.

>Les K4BZJ was thrilled to net a real cowgirl as a mosquito. Sue KB5LMB sent her QSL card with her on a horse to prove it.

>Tom KQ4OY captured our first mosquito in Hawaii. Ben NH6US sent his QSL card from Kailua, Oahu as confirmation.

>Special thanks to those who were net control: Jose KC4VIO, Cliff KC4SYD, Joe W4OPZ, Les K4BZJ, Les K4SJC, Tom KQ4OY, Bob W4VQB and Ken N4EZV. A few net members also helped out by relaying stations that were hard to copy and we thank them for their asistance. Teresa KD4YJE addressed envelopes and filled in certificates. Tom KQ4OY played a significant role in the preparation of the certificate and Jose KD4RVB did a beautiful job of printing the final product.

Warm Regards, Carole KC4VIN & Jose KC4VIO

INDIAN RIVER FESTIVAL RAFT RACE

April 24, 9:00 A.M - 2:00 P.M.
We need volunteers with H.T.'s
for boats and shore.

Contact Bud K4CWG

TREASURER'S REPORT - YEAR TO DATE
By K4EOS, Clyde Lee

Transferred from old acct.	977.82
DEPOSITS: 50/50,ARRL,dues,donations, loan,stu.fees,Xmas pty.	3052.60
TOTAL INCOME	4030.42
EXPENSES: ARRL.bnk.chgs,Bud loan, gifts,Ins. Off.supp,POBox, postage,printing,stu.bks, tel, Xmas pty.,Exam.fees	1715.71
BALANCE AS AT 03/31/93	2314.71
Bud's loan bal.as at 12/31/92	2333.00
Paid through 3/31/93	321.50
BALANCE DUE BUD	2011.50

TARC FRIENDSHIP NET
Thursdays - 146.910-600
VIP net @ 10:00 AM - Original net @ 6:30PM
By Cliff KC4SYD

One more star has been added to the TARC crown: March 11, initiated the early bird (VIP) net for all those members who were unable to check in on the evening net. Thus far response has been excellent i.e

3/11/93 25 am + 42 pm = 67
3/18/93 27 am + 50 pm = 77
3/25/93 23 am + 50 pm = 73
4/01/93 19 am + 59 pm = 78

So it looks as if we are committed to two nets each Thursday to achieve maximum coverage of club event and activities.

In the event anyone has traffic for the net, but is unable to check in either AM or PM call 267-7030 before 7:00 PM Wednesday, and we will get your traffic "aired".

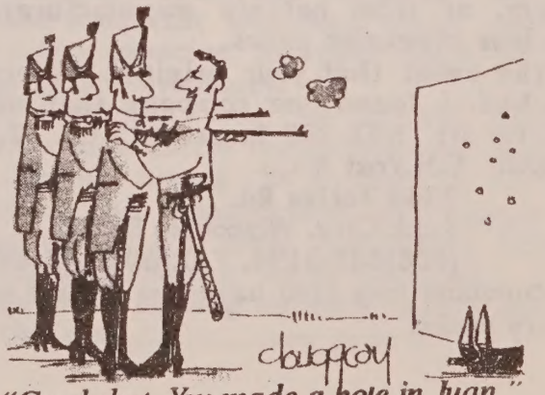
We are looking forward to hearing from all the new operators (as soon as FCC and the Post Office catch us.) Could we be looking at 100 check-ins per week by the end of the year?

I've been scratching my head trying to come up with a unique method of checking in that will keep everyone on their toes and interested. By and large this will be either chicanery or logic depending on the mood of the net control person. We will continue to honor suggestions as to how it can be made more democratic. We will honor the suggestions - didn't say we's use them.

73's, Clif

MINUTES OF MARCH MEETING
By KC4UFI Jerry Russell, Secretary

Called order at 19:00. Pledge of Allegiance to Flag. Bud had everyone introduce themselves.
>Bud introduced Derek McLean, first harmonic of WB4SIG, as the youngest Ham in the club. Derek was one of the recent grads of the TARC Novice/Tech class. Derek is 11 years old. Just a few months older is Nick Sargenti who was also a grad of the class. Congrat's to these fine young men!
>Clyde, K4EOS reported on a reply from Rep. Charlie Roberts to a recent letter he had written in regards to the state increasing the fee to incorporate in the state. The letter was positive and upbeat.
>Pike, W4EPU reported on a letter received from the Kof C in support of the RUN FOR LIFE sponsored by the K of C. The letter was a Thank You for a job well done.
>John Lowe (no call yet) asked to have a meeting tonight with the poeple who will help him with the TARC hamfest.
>Richman, WA2IDZ (87 years young) was introduced to the membership as the oldest Ham in the club, and was introduced to Derek, the youngest.
>A report of Field Day preps was made by KK4SH, Vince Gonzalez. He reported that he had received the Field Day kit from ARRL and was in the site selection process.
>I, KC4UFI was asked to explain Field Day since I was the chairman last year.
>VP Cliff, KC4SYD reported on the 2 meter net, and asked Carole, KC4VIN to explain the upcoming special event of the 2 year old Mosquito Net.
>Break 20:00
>Ozzie, N4SCY and Larry, WB9MFJ had the program with Message Handling and Packet Radio of the topics. Larry could not be there due to pressing personal problems, but Ozzie made his presentation. He presented a detailed presentation on the proper message handling and routing during an emergency.
>The meeting adjourned at 21:00.



"Good shot. You made a hole in Juan."

ABELL'S ANECDOTES

By Pike Abell, W4EPU

THE DEER HUNT

1:00 A.M. Alarm Clock Rings.
2:00 A.M. Hunting partners arrive, drag you out of bed
2:30 A.M. Throw everything except the kitchen sink in the pickup.
3:00 A.M. Leave for the deep woods.
3:15 A.M. Drive back home to pick up gun.
3:30 A.M. Drive like hell to get to the woods before daylight.
4:00 A.M. Set up camp - Forgot tent.
4:30 A.M. Head into woods.
6:05 A.M. See eight deer. Take aim and sqeeze trigger. "Click."
6:08 A.M. Load gun while watching deer go over hill.
8:00 A.M. Head back to camp.
9:00 A.M. Still looking for camp.
Noon: Fire gun for help, eat wild berries.
12:15 P.M. Ran out of bullets - eight deer came back.
12:20 P.M. Strange feeling in stomach.
12:45 P.M. Rescued.
12:55 P.M. Rushed to hospital - had stomach pumped.
3:00 P.M. Arrived back at camp.
3:30 P.M. Leave camp to hunt deer.
4:00 P.M. Return to camp for bullets.
4:01 P.M. Load gun - leave camp.
5:00 P.M. Empty gun on squirrel that's bugging you.
6:00 P.M. Arrive at camp - deer grazing in camp.
6:01 P.M. Load gun - fire gun - 1 dead pickup.
6:05 P.M. Hunting partner returns to camp dragging deer.
6:06 P.M. Repress strong desire to shoot hunting partner.
6:07 P.M. Fall into fire.
6:10 P.M. Change clothes - throw burned ones into fire.
6:15 P.M. Take pickup - leave partner and his deer in woods
6:25 P.M. Pickup boils over - hole shot in block - start walking
6:30 P.M. Stumble and fall - drop gun in mud.
6:36 P.M. Meet bear - take aim - fire gun - blow up barrel plugged with mud.
6:39 P.M. Mess pants.
6:50 P.M. Bear departs - wrap gun around tree.
Midnight: Home at last.
Sunday: Watch football game on TV - slowly tear up hunting license into little pieces - place in envelope and mail to Game Warden with specific instructions on where to stick it.

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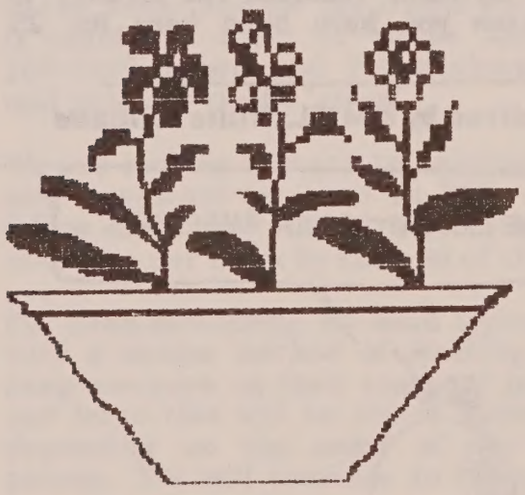
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total Membership: 222 (includes 38 family members & 5 honorary)

New Members: KD4VRU - Richard Edwards
Clinton Griffin
Pat Hicks
KD4TLR Steve Bidwell
Walter Pile

Renewals: KB2MLY Mike Cavalera
N4MCZ Rod Iwan
KC4VQE Bill Palm
KA1BDC Art DeAngelis
N2CTQ Lou Gencorelli
KD4EYS Charles Romeo
N4WWG Dave Hart
KD4CBV George Bortle
KD4LXI & KD4PUT Walt & Flo Wilson
KD4POS Parker Cox, Jr.
KC4UAK Steve Griner

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

4/15	Alachua	"Poorman's Hamfest City Fairground SR24 Talk-in on 146.820
7/31-1	Jacksonville	Prime Osborne Conv.Cntr. So.Lee & W.Bay Talk-in on 146.76
9/11-12	Melbourne	Melbourne Auditorium 625 Hibiscus Blvd. Talk-in on 146.76
9/25	Starke	Bradford Co.Fairgrnds. US301&SR100 Talk-in on 145.150
9/26	N.Pt.Richey	New Pt.Richey Rec.Centr. 6630 Van Buren. Talk-in on 145.350 or 147.150
10/9	Titusville	Sand Point Pavilion

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